



AN ASSOCIATION OF
MONTANA HEALTH
CARE PROVIDERS

September 15, 2015

Ms. Sylvia Mathews Burwell
HHS Secretary
200 Independent Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

MHA, An Association of Montana Health Care Providers is the principal advocate for our member institutions, including 61 hospitals, 25 long term care facilities, 23 home health agencies and 23 hospices. MHA urges your support and approval of the Montana Medicaid Expansion waivers.

MHA worked with Montana Governor Steve Bullock and legislative leaders to enact Senate Bill 405, a bill to extend Medicaid coverage to low income Montanans under the Affordable Care Act. Montana's effort to expand coverage drew bipartisan support conditioned on a carefully balanced plan that included active participation by the beneficiary and a strategy to not grow government.

The requirement of financial participation by the beneficiary and the use of a third party administrator are at the core of the waivers sought by Montana. The financial impact on the beneficiary is mitigated by assuring that persons below 100% of federal poverty do not lose coverage if they are unable to make a premium payment. Those between 100% and 150% of federal poverty may avoid losing coverage, too; Montana has not proposed any lockout provisions in its program.

Montana Medicaid currently has copayments in place for the beneficiaries, with the exceptions required under federal law. The plan also provides additional exceptions for prevention and wellness services, among other things.

Without federal approval of the approach adopted by the Montana legislature there will be no expansion in Montana, and the people we propose to serve will be left without a realistic option for health coverage. Montana's legislation is a starting point that we believe merits federal support. Like any health care delivery system, Montana expects to evolve over time as we test our approach and continue to seek improvements in the Medicaid program.

MHA respectfully urges your support for the waivers sought by Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dick Brown'.

Dick Brown
President

2625 Winne Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601
tel: (406) 442-1911 fax: (406) 443-3894
www.mtha.org